(b) Theoretically, calorific value of 1000 M3 o gas equals that of two tonnes of coal of grade D which is commonly used for power generation. However, gas has a higher thermal efficiency than coal.

(c) With effect from 23-12-87, the pit-head sale price of grade D steam coal having useful heat value of 4200 to 4940 K. Cal/Kg. is Rs. 232/- per tonne. This is exclusive of royalty, cess, taxes, excise duty, sales tax etc.

With effect from 31-1-87, the price of on-shore gas and off-shore gas at landfall point has been fixed at Rs. 1400/1000 M3; whereas in the North-Eastern Region the price would be Rs. 1000/- 1000 M3, with a discount of upto Rs. 500/1000 M3. The price of gas from the HBJ pipeline has been fixed at Rs. 2250/1090 M3. These prices are exclusive of royalty, taxes etc.

(d) The prices fixed by the Government for natural gas is related to a range of calorific values. Generation of power from gas is more economical than coal, as gas based power plants have shorter gestation period and lower capital and operation costs.

(e) Natural gas is utilised whenever it is found to be techno-economically viable. Prices are charged at rates fixed by Government.

Second digital electronic factory in Bangalore

2645. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for setting up the second digital electronic switching factory in Bangalore is now virtually in cold storage;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government still propose to set up the factory keeping in view of the interests of workers; and

(d) if so, by when the factory is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) A second factory to produce five lakhs lines a year of digital electronic switching equipment was proposed to be set up at Bangalore during the 7th Plan period. This was proposed in the context of a proposed investment of Rs. 13,000 crores in the telecommunications network.

The final plan utlay was however fixed at Rs. 4010 crores only. In this background, it was found that the factory may not be needed during the 7th Plan period. Since then, the Department's allocations have been increased modestly in the Annual Plans and it has now been possible to set up the factory in a phased manner. The production of one lakh lines a year of C-DOT design of Rural Automatic Exchanges has been taken up. The production has commenced. This is to be followed by production of one lakh lines a year of 512-port main exchanges.

It will thus be seen that the proposal is not in cold storage but is in fact being pursued actively.

Use of Hazardous non-pesticide chemicals

2646. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of hazrdous non-pesticide chemicals are in use in India which have been banned in the technologically advanced countries,

(b) whether Government propose to formulate a time bound programme to stop the use of such chemicals in India; and